

REMARKS

Claim 1 remains in this application. Claims 2 and 3 have been canceled and claims 4-37 have been withdrawn as a result of the Examiner's restriction requirement. Claims 38-40 have been added in order to more particularly point out and define applicants' invention. New claims 38-40 are fully supported by applicants' specification and claims as filed. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

The Restriction Requirement

The Examiner states that the above-identified patent application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Species A: Figure 4;  
Species B: Figure 5;  
Species C: Figure 6;  
Species D: Figure 7;  
Species E: Figure 8;  
Species F: Figure 9;  
Species G: Figure 10;  
Species H: Figure 11;  
Species I: Figure 12;  
Species J: Figure 13;  
Species K: Figure 14;  
Species L: Figure 15; and  
Species M: Figure 16.

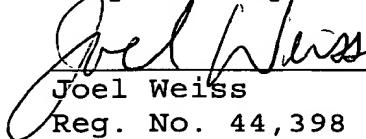
The Examiner states that applicants are required under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held allowable. The Examiner further states that claim 1 is generic. The Examiner states that upon allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species that are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowed generic claim.

Applicants elect Species A (Figure 4) without traverse. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-3 as filed read upon Species A. The Examiner states that claim 1 is generic. Applicants have canceled claims 2 and 3, withdrawn claims 4-37, and added new claims 38-40. Dependent claim 38 is supported by applicants' specification as filed, in particular page 14, lines 9-11 and page 15, lines 3-7. Claims 39 and 40 are dependent versions of canceled independent claims 2 and 3, respectively.

Appl. No. 09/553,423  
Amdt. dated July 31, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of April 22, 2003

This election is made expressly without waiver of applicants' rights to continue to prosecute and to obtain claims to the non-elected and/or canceled subject matter either in this application or in other applications claiming priority herefrom.

Respectfully submitted,



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